



**A SERVICE OF JOY AND CELEBRATION**

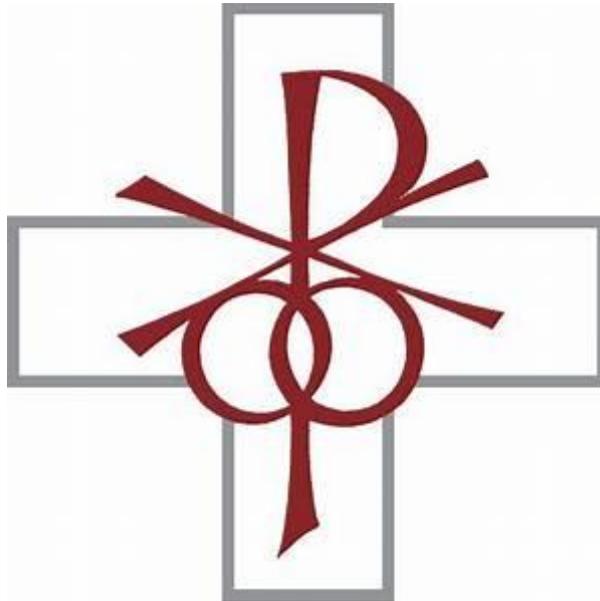
**for the Marriage of**

**MARGARET ELISABETH RAABE**

**and**

**GREGORY JAMES VAN HORN**

**August 25, 2018  
St John Lutheran Church  
Blue Bell, Pennsylvania**



**OFFICIANT**

**Rev Dr David A Genszler**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**Lawrence Baker**

**FLUTE**

**Ann McInerney**

**BARITONE**

**Martin Raabe**

## **GATHERING AND INTRODUCTION**

*The assembly and wedding party come together.  
The celebration of Christian marriage begins.*

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

EVENING AND MORNING (ELW 761) Organ, flute	Johann Ebeling Donald Busarow
LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS (ELW 802) Organ	Georg Boltze Nancy Raabe
HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR (ELW 308) Organ, flute	Philipp Nicolai Paul Manz
JESUS, LEAD THOU ON (ELW 624) Organ	Adam Drese Paul Manz

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Please remain seated until the end of verse 5.*

COME, BLESS THE LORD  
Tune: *Truro*, Thomas Williams  
Text: Weissel, Raabe, von Preil, Ambrose of Milan, alt.

# Come, Bless the Lord



1 Come, bless the Lord this glor - ious day! We  
 2 O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
 3 O blest the house where faith is found, and  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make  
 5 Re - deem - er, come with us a - bide, Our



draw to - geth - er now to say: Lift  
 Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O  
 all in char - i - ty a - bound. To  
 it a tem - ple, set a - part from  
 9 hearts to thee we o - pen wide. Let



e'v - ry heart and eye and ear, the  
 hap - py hearts and hap - py homes To  
 trust their God and serve him still, and  
 earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a -  
 us thy in - ner pres - ence feel; thy



Sav - ior of the world is here!  
 whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 do in all God's ho - ly will.  
 dorned with prayer, and love, and joy.  
 grace and love in us re - veal.

6 Come, now, O Lord, and enter in!  
 Let new and nobler life begin.  
 Thy holy Spirit guide us on,  
 until thy glorious crown be won.

7 All glory be to God above,  
 And to his Son, the Prince of Love,  
 And to the Spirit, one in three:  
 We praise you, bles-sed Trinity.

## **GREETING**

*The minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of Margaret and Greg, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God in which a man and a woman are joined as one, an image of the union of Christ and the church.

As Margaret and Greg make their promises to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

The uniting of this man and this woman in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter.

Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them, that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in the love of God.

## **DECLARATION OF INTENTION**

*The minister addresses the couple, asking:*

Greg, will you receive Margaret as your wife  
and bind yourself to her in the covenant of marriage?

Will you promise

to love and honor her in true devotion,  
to rejoice with her in times of gladness,

to grieve with her in times of sorrow,  
and to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*Response:* I will.

Margaret, will you receive Greg as your husband  
and bind yourself to him in the covenant of marriage?  
Will you promise  
to love and honor him in true devotion,  
to rejoice with him in times of gladness,  
to grieve with him in times of sorrow,  
and to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*Response:* I will.

*The minister addresses the families of the couple.*

Will you, the families of Margaret and Greg, give your love and  
blessing to this new family?

*The families respond:* We will.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

Families, friends, and all those gathered here with Margaret and  
Greg, will you support and care for them, sustain and pray for  
them in times of trouble, give thanks with them in times of joy,  
honor the bonds of their covenant, and affirm the love of God  
reflected in their life together?

**We will.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Minister* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* And also with you.

*Minister* Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world  
to reveal your love to all people.

Enrich Margaret and Greg with every good gift,

that their life together may show forth your love;  
and grant that, at the last,  
we all may celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*The assembly is seated. God's word about marriage is presented.*

**Ephesians 4: 32 - 5: 2**    *Reader: Chrissie Lovette*

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgave you. Be imitators of God, as beloved  
children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself  
up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Romans 12: 9-18**    *Reader: David Raabe*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love  
one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing  
honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice  
in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to  
the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice  
with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony  
with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the  
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone  
evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it  
is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands for the reading of the Gospel.*

The Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 22: 35 – 40** One of them, an expert in the law, tested Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the homily.*

## **MARRIAGE**

*As two become one by their promises, God blesses them.*

## **VOWS**

*The minister addresses the couple.*

Margaret and Greg, I invite you to declare your vows to one another.

*The couple joins hands. Each promises faithfulness to the other.*

I take you, Greg, to be my husband from this day forward,  
to join with you and share all that is to come,  
and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

I take you, Margaret, to be my wife from this day forward,  
to join with you and share all that is to come,  
and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

## **GIVING OF RINGS**

We give you thanks, O God of grace,  
for your love and faithfulness to your people.  
May these rings be symbols of the promises  
that Margaret and Greg have made with each other;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The couple exchanges rings.*

Greg, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

Margaret, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

## **ACCLAMATION**

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

Margaret and Greg, by their promises before God and in the  
presence of this assembly, have joined themselves to one  
another as husband and wife. Those whom God has joined  
together let no one separate.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*The couple greets one another with the kiss of peace.*

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

*The minister extends a hand over the couple while praying for  
God's blessings on them.*

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love  
in sending Jesus Christ to come among us,  
to be born of a human mother,  
and to endure the cross for our sake,  
that we may have abundance of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit  
pour out the abundance of your blessing on Margaret and Greg.  
Let your love be a seal upon their hearts,  
a mantle about their shoulders,  
and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that their lives together may bear witness to your  
love.

Bless them in their work and in their companionship;  
in their sleeping and in their waking;  
in their joys and in their sorrows;  
in their life and in their death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table  
where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, ✠ now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The assembly stands.*

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God  
for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God,  
for the joy that Margaret and Greg have found in each other,  
and we pray that their love and faithfulness  
may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life.

Gracious and faithful God,

**hear our prayer.**

Give them gentleness and patience,  
affection and understanding, readiness to trust one another,  
and, when they hurt each other,  
grace to acknowledge their fault  
and to give and receive forgiveness.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Use us to support Margaret and Greg in their lives together.  
Give us such a sense of your constant love  
that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,  
even as we call to mind those who are absent from us.  
Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,  
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Look graciously on the world you have made  
and for which your Son gave his life.  
Strengthen marriages, families, and communities everywhere.  
Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to you, merciful God,  
for those who have left this world before us.  
Strengthen us by the example of the saints,  
and ✝ bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb.  
Gracious and faithful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Most gracious God,  
you have made us in your image  
and given us over to one another's care.  
Hear the prayers of your people,  
that unity may overcome division,  
hope vanquish despair, and joy conquer sorrow;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **BLESSING**

GO GENTLY, GO LIGHTLY

Text: Shirley Erena Murray  
Flute: Ann McInerney

Tune, setting: Nancy Raabe  
Baritone: Martin Raabe

*Go gently, go lightly, go safe in the Spirit,  
Live simply, don't carry much more than you need.  
Go trusting God's goodness, go spreading God's kindness,  
Stay centered on Jesus and where he will lead.*

*Go singing, go bringing the gifts of the Spirit,  
Go hopefully searching for things that are true.  
In living, in loving, whatever befalls you,  
God keep you, God bless you in all that you do.*

## **SENDING**

*The assembly stands.*

*The minister proclaims God's blessing on the couple and the assembly.*

God Almighty send you light and truth,  
to keep you all the days of your life.  
The hand of God protect you;  
the holy angels accompany you;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT (ELW 308, vv 5, 6)

Text, Tune: *Wie schoen leuchtet*, Philipp Nicolai

*The assembly is seated when the hymn ends.*

# O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

1



5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with mus - ic  
6 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and

5



crowned, our voic - es gai - ly blend - ing! For Christ goes  
last, the end and the be - gin - ning! He will one

7



with us all the way - to - day, to - mor - row, ev' - ry  
day, oh, glo - rious grace, trans - port us to that hap - py

10



day! His love is nev - er end - ing! Sing out! Ring out!  
place be - yond all tears and sin - ning! A - men! A - men!

12



Jub - i - la - tion! Ex - al - ta - tion! Tell the sto - ry!  
Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness! We are yearn - ing

13



Great is he, the King of glo - ry!  
for the day of your re - turn - ing.

## **POST-SERVICE MUSIC**

HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR (ELW 308)      Philipp Nicolai  
Organ      Jan Bender

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING (ELW 631)      Rowland Prichard  
Organ      Nancy Raabe

OUR FATHER, BY WHOSE NAME (ELW 640)      John D Edwards  
Organ      Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Please join us in celebration immediately following the  
ceremony at The Manor House at Prophecy Creek Park.**

**205 W Skippack Pike  
Ambler, PA 19002**



<b>BRIDE</b>	Margaret Elisabeth Raabe
<b>GROOM</b>	Gregory James Van Horn
<b>PARENTS</b>	Bill and Nancy Raabe Jim and Mary Van Horn
<b>MAID OF HONOR</b>	Jacquie DeFrancesco
<b>BRIDESMAIDS</b>	Teresa Brown Laura Van Horn Rebekah Engstrand Leiah Groom Alexandra Quastler Meredith Stidham Jennifer Horton
<b>BEST MAN</b>	Rob Van Horn
<b>GROOMSMEN</b>	Mike Brown Martin Raabe Tom Belden Brian Hearon Chris Constantine Zack Vesco
<b>FLOWER GIRL</b>	Grace Frischer
<b>RING BEARER</b>	Will Brown
<b>USHERS</b>	Johnathan Emerson Jon Flaherty Jill Flaherty Robert C Miller III
<b>SPECIAL THANKS – ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>	
	Pastor Sarah Stobie Barry Stock